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SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Services for Special Needs

COMPILED BY LUCY T. BARTLETT



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Preface

IT SEEMS that this book, small as it is, should have a preface, not to say what it is but what it is not.

First of all, it is not the book that was planned a year ago. And most certainly not that contemplated two years ago. Three fat folders of material dwindled to two — to one — and then it became a question whether that one would remain intact. Worship and its objectives are permanent, although our approach to them changes with the passing years, especially with the happenings of those years.

The residue is presented, not as the best of all that was in hand, but as the most usable now. Religion is like the tides; it has its ebb and flow, its neap and flood. The depths are universal and unchanging, but the surface changes according to the pull of events, the direction and violence of men's thinking. It is hoped that these services, simple as they are and written originally for some special occasion, with no thought of publication, may have in them enough of the universal to make them contemporary.

— L. T. B.

SERVICES EASILY ADAPTABLE TO GROUPS
OUTSIDE THE Y.W.C.A.

A Service of Praise

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation.
Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth.
Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work, and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee.
Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him.
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him!

Let us pray.

We praise Thee, O God: we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.
To Thee all angels cry aloud, the Heavens and all the Powers
therein;
To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee.
The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge
Thee;
The Father of an infinite Majesty;
Thine adorable, true and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of

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any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Lord, our God, great, eternal, wonderful in glory, who keepest covenant and promises with those that love Thee with their whole heart, who art the life of all, the help of those that flee unto Thee, the hope of those who cry unto Thee; cleanse us from our sins, secret and open, and from every thought displeasing to thy goodness; cleanse our bodies and souls, our hearts and consciences, that with a pure heart and a clear soul, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee. *Amen.*

O Master of the hearts of men, make us to be ill-content with any peace save that of our Saviour, who won his peace after He had made the world's ill his own. Hold us back when in our vulgar pride we would go apart from the path and life of the lowly. As our Saviour made the carpenter's shop his school and from it passed to the perfection of Calvary, so may we keep ourselves close to the lives of the great body of men, and pass through things common into the things eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

MEDITATION:

Recall to mind the truth we so often forget in the strain of our lives — that this is a great time in which we live; that profound changes, significant for the future of human life, are taking place. We are ourselves often confused in mind as to where to put what little influence we have, what is right and best to do. We are over-intellectualized and need desperately some upsurging of our subconscious selves, some experience of the wisdom that comes when in brooding silence and quiet meditation we make it possible for the spirit of God to flow in upon us, and the thoughts which we have struggled with become part of our deeper life of feeling and emotion, united with the larger purposes of God.

A SERVICE OF PRAISE

It is through an occasional quiet time together that the difficult questions that lie ahead of us become illumined by the spirit and meaning of God. Let us bring these and our other work and problems into our meditation and prayer together.

SILENT MEDITATION AND PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

BENEDICTION:

May the peace of God that passeth all understanding guard our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Service of Love

PRAYER OF INVOCATION:

O Thou Eternal Presence, in whose mystery we live, subdue our minds and soften our hearts as we bow together in the fellowship of prayer. Create in us that purity of heart that discerns thy truth and thy will, and that love which admits us into communion with Thee and harmony with one another. Help us to realize that beyond the near things that distract lie the eternal things that endure, and by that vision may we be renewed and uplifted. Grant us thy revealing grace, that we may be crowned with strength to serve Thee and thy cause of goodwill in the world. *Amen.*¹

READING:

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
And the sky shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day pours forth speech,
And night unto night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard;
Yet their voices go forth through all the earth,
And their words to the ends of the world.

The law of the Lord is perfect, renewing the life;
The testimony of the Lord is trustworthy, making wise the simple,
The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;
The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever.
The judgments of the Lord are true, and they are also right;
They are more valuable than gold, and much fine gold;
And sweeter than honey, and the droppings of the honeycomb.²

A SERVICE OF LOVE

An expert in the Law, to test Him, asked, "Master, what command is greatest in the Law?" And He said unto him,

"You must love the Lord your God with your whole heart, your whole soul and your whole mind. That is the first great command. There is a second like it: You must love your neighbor as you do yourself. These two commands sum up the whole of the Law and the Prophets."³

Without charity the outward work profiteth nothing; but whatever is done of charity be it ever so little . . . in the sight of the world, it becomes wholly fruitful.

For God weigheth more with how much love a man worketh, than how much he doeth. He doeth much that loveth much. He doeth much that doeth a thing well.

He doeth well that rather serveth the community, than his own will.

Love is a great thing, yea, a great and thorough good; by itself it makes everything that is heavy light; and it bears evenly all that is uneven.

The noble love of Jesus impels a man to do great things, and stirs him up to be always longing for what is more perfect. . . .

Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing higher, nothing wider, nothing fuller nor better in heaven and earth. . . .

He that loveth, flieth, runneth and rejoiceth; he is free and cannot be held in. . . .

Love is able to undertake all things and it completes many things, and warrants them to take effect, where he who does not love would faint and lie down.⁴

In these days there is a wide chasm between ideals and reality. We are confused as to how to go wisely and lovingly, and so are repeatedly driven back to the fundamental laws of God.

Christ's summary in the two great commands implies action, it involves emotion and understanding — understanding which goes back to careful thought and meditation; the facing of facts until we by love

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

are driven to action. Again, what we can do seems small and of little avail unless we are aware of the strength that comes through our renewed experience of God.

Prayer to be effective must be thoughtful. Effective prayer is testing, for we need to ask ourselves if we are so gripped by the needs, personal or social, for which we pray that we are willing to pay our share of the cost of the changes for which we long. This is the test of our sincerity, and it is at this point that we have a vivifying spiritual experience.

Let us here consider what Brother Lawrence has said in *The Practice of the Presence of God*.

"The whole substance of religion is faith, hope and charity, by the practice of which we become united to the will of God: that all besides is indifferent, and to be used as a means that we may arrive at our end.

"All things are possible to him who *believes* — they are less difficult to him who *hopes* — they are more easy to him who *loves* — and still more easy to him who perseveres in the practice of these three virtues" — faith, hope, love.

Let us pray.

Give us the supreme courage of love — this is our prayer — the courage to speak, to suffer at thy will, to leave all things, or be left alone.

Give us the supreme confidence of love — this is our prayer — the confidence that belongs to life in death, to victory in defeat, to the power hidden in frailest beauty, to that dignity in pain which accepts hurt but disdains to return it.⁵

Let us pray for those who are faced with discouragement and fear and a sense of loneliness.

Silence.

For those who are in positions of unusual stress or difficulty because of national or racial prejudices.

Silence.

A SERVICE OF LOVE

For those leaders who in these days are facing crises and must make decisions on social and economic issues.

Silence.

We thank thee, O God, for the endless renewing of life. Thou art never weary of setting us free from the bonds wherewith we have bound ourselves; make us to walk in this new day without fear or any kind of bondage. Open our eyes to receive new light; open our ears to hear the voices that are calling to us to make the world new by the power of love. Enlarge our souls with a divine charity, that we may hope all things, endure all things and become messengers of thy healing mercy to the grievances and infirmities of men. Fit us for the task that is ours, and imbue us with the spirit of that heavenly kingdom which is to come upon the earth, where all shall be brothers and men shall be the people of God.⁶

Silence.

"May the grace of courage and the quiet mind, with all such blessedness as belongeth to the children of the Father in heaven, be ours to the Father's praise." *Amen.*

¹ By Margaret Burton

² Psalm 19

³ Matthew 22 35-40

⁴ Thomas à Kempis

⁵ Rabindranath Tagore

⁶ *The Way of Light*, compiled by Howard Chandler Robbins (Edwin S. Gorham, Inc., \$1.50)

A Service of Simplicity

THE FEAR of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; before honor goeth humility.

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to do justly and to love kindness and to walk humbly with thy God?

Gird yourself with humility, for God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. Be clothed with compassion, kindliness, humility and gentleness.¹

By two wings a man is lifted up from things earthly — by simplicity and purity. Simplicity ought to be in our intentions; purity in our affections. Simplicity doth tend toward God, purity doth apprehend and taste Him. "My peace is with the humble and gentle of heart"; in much patience shall thy peace be.²

Humility seemeth to be like unto a flash of lightning, for even as the lightning striketh a terrible blow, crashing and breaking in pieces and burning up whatsoever it meets, and then the flash is no more to be found, so in like manner humility pierces and scatters, burns and consumes all wickedness and all vice and all sin.

The man that possesseth humility, through humility finds grace with God, and perfect peace with his neighbor.³

I will tell you, said He, the secret of happiness in life.

It is with the men who have a deep sense of something missed, of a life which their spirits need; theirs is the world as God means it to be.

It is with the men who have realized the imperfection of human life; the resources of divine energy and consolation shall be at their disposal.

A SERVICE OF SIMPLICITY

It is with the men whose thought for others forbids self-assertion; mastery of the earth shall be their rightful heritage.

It is with those who have an overmastering passion for the right way of life now presented to them; their life shall be full of achievement.

It is with those who have the brotherly spirit; they shall receive it in return.

It is with the single-hearted; they shall see God in everything.

It is with those who would be peace-makers, for such a spirit is nourished in self-forgetfulness and the sense of God's love; men will recognize that they are God's children.

It is with those who have suffered hardships in the cause of right; God's new world is open to them.⁴

MEDITATION:

Humility, simplicity and kindness are three cardinal virtues. Indeed they are a trinity in unity. Humility is the soil out of which the other two grow. If one is really humble, he is also simple and kind. "Simplicity of heart toward God and man" expresses a quality of life against which nothing that is evil can prevail. A simple person is impregnable against the assaults which often break those whom pride has deceived. A simple person is not important in his own eyes and so he cannot be easily hurt. He has lost the sophistication which hinders the spontaneous outgoing of his soul toward God and his outreach toward others. Simplicity is the quality which Jesus said was necessary if we would receive and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Simplicity is something that we do not achieve of ourselves; it is God's gift to those who earnestly desire it. Take the phrase away with you and ponder it; perhaps it will open new doors through which you may pass into a deeper life with God and with each other.

Let us pray.

O God, Thou hast taught us that in returning and rest are we saved and that in quietness and confidence is our strength. We would seek Thee in the stillness of this hour and hear thy voice within our souls during the brief moment we are together. We long for the simplicity of heart which turns naturally to Thee; for that freedom from

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

pride and self-conceit which will bring us close to each other. Grant unto us deep insights born of love and pure intention. We are perplexed and burdened by the sin of the world. Its weight presses heavily upon us. O Thou who for suffering humanity dost bear the relentless burden of redemption, help us to share the load with Thee, and be thine ambassadors in the loving ministry of reconciliation. To this end we offer and present unto Thee ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice; humbly beseeching Thee to accept this our offering and use us to make known thy love to all mankind.

Hear us, we beseech Thee, as we pray for the peace of the world. Let not the wrath of men against real or imagined wrongs plunge the world further into war. Uphold with the strength of thy power those men and women of goodwill who are striving to bring peace into the world. Have mercy upon thy weak and burdened children. Save us and help us, we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord.

Hear us of thy mercy, O Eternal Father, as we pray for the work committed to our hands. Give us right judgment in all things, that we may know what we ought to do in the midst of confusing issues. May we be worthy comrades of those worthy souls who in every age have followed Thee and have found in thy service their exceeding great reward.

Bless us, O Lord, with the vision of thy being and beauty, that in the joy of thy strength we may work without haste and without sloth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May the love of God and the fellowship of the divine Spirit be with us all this day. *Amen.*

¹ The Bible.

² *The Imitation of Christ*

³ *The Little Flowers of Saint Francis*

⁴ Shafto's paraphrase of the Sermon on the Mount in an English publication, *The Splendor of God.*

A Service of Light

In the center of a table standing on the platform is a large lighted candle, lighted before the service begins, symbolizing the presence of Christ in the midst. The leaders stand at either side of this central light, their unlighted candles lying on the table, ready for their use later. There may be a processional, the choir leading, which comes down the center aisle and takes the seats on either side. Each girl, as she enters, is given an unlighted candle, which she carries with her to her seat.

HYMN or PROCESSIONAL: "Light of the World, We Hail Thee."

CALL TO WORSHIP (*choir*):

The Lord is in his Holy Temple,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.

Leader: Still our hearts in adoration before the light of thy love and
teach us all to pray:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. *Amen.*

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

HYMN OF ADORATION:

“Hail, Glad’ning Light of His Pure Glory Poured.”

READING:

Hear the words of the ancient lawgivers:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be upon thy heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thy hand, and they shall be for frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the door-posts of thy house and upon thy gates.

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thy heart . . . but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Hear also the words of our Lord Jesus.

Even as the Father hath loved me, I also have loved you. abide ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you. No longer do I call you servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I heard from my Father I have made known unto you. Ye did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you. These things I command you, that ye may love one another.

CHORAL CHANT:

Lord have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

PRAYER AND CHORAL RESPONSE:

Leader: Let us pray:

O Jehovah, Thou art our Father,
We are the clay and Thou our potter,
We all are the work of thy hand.
Behold, look, we beseech Thee;
We are all thy people.

Response (choir alone or all):

Send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead us.
Oh, let them bring us to thy holy will.

Leader:

All we like sheep have gone astray,
We have turned every one to his own way,
And Thou hast laid on Him the iniquity of us all.
Have mercy upon us, O God, according to thy loving-kindness,
According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out our
transgressions.

Response:

Send out thy light and thy truth, let them lead us.
Oh, let them bring us to thy holy will.

Leader:

Gather the nations from far and teach them to walk in thy paths.
Hasten the coming of the latter days,
When nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war any more.

Response:

"Send out thy light, etc." (*entire chant*).

CHARGE TO THE CONFERENCE (*ending with, if desired*):

In the name of Him from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, I charge you to receive into your hearts the light of his love, to cherish that light as your chief treasure, to keep it burning clear and steady, to hold it aloft that others may see it, to pass it on that others may share it, till all the world shall walk in the light of Christ our Lord.

At the close of the charge all stand; the leaders light their candles

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from the central light; the two girls sitting at either side of the center aisle on the first row come to the platform and light their candles at the candle of one of the leaders. Returning to their places, each lights the candle of her neighbor. The lights thus pass from person to person to the end of the first row, back to the second row, in toward the center aisle, and back to the third, passing back and forth until the candles of all are lighted.

During the lighting of the candles, one leader, or each leader in turn, reads, with slight pauses between, from the following selections. It is suggested that during this part of the service there be quiet music.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

In Him was Life, and that Life was the Light of Men.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it.

Arise, shine, for thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee, nations shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thy hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light to the Gentiles, to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison-house.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. They that dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Every gift which is good, and every perfect boon is from above, and comes down from the Father who is the source of all light. In Him there is no variation, nor the slightest shadow that is cast by turning.

The light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their works were evil.

But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest that they have been wrought in God.

A SERVICE OF LIGHT

The darkness is passing away and the true light already shineth.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light.

Walk while ye have the light, that darkness overtake you not: he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth. While ye have the light believe on the light, that ye may become children of light.

Jesus spake with them, saying: I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.

Ye were once darkness, but now are light in the Lord.

Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

Ye are people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

We give thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love.

Ye are the light of the world. Even so let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

It is God that said, Light shall shine out of darkness; who shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

For this reason, we beseech the Father, from whom the whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name, to grant us, in accordance with the wealth of his glorious perfections, to be strengthened by his spirit, with power penetrating to our inmost being. We pray that Christ may make his home in our hearts through our faith; so that having our roots deep and our foundations strong in love, we may become mighty to grasp the idea, as it is grasped by all God's people, of the breadth and length, the height and depth — yes, to attain to a

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

knowledge of the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, so that we may be made complete in accordance with God's own standard of completeness.

Now to Him who, in the exercise of his power that is at work within us, is able to do infinitely beyond all our highest prayers or thoughts — to Him be the glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, world without end. *Amen.*

RESPONSE (*choir*): "Threefold Amen."

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us, the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.

RECESSIONAL:

"Father of Lights" or "Forward Through the Ages."

The leaders go out, followed by the choir and then by others, all carrying their lighted candles.

A Service of Consecration for Advisers of Girls

Leader: Let us who have known the comradeship of a common purpose and common tasks accomplished assemble here in the stillness of this communion for the renewal of the spirit, that we may be the more resolute in the face of the larger undertakings that lie before us.

As we set our minds to keep pace with the future, let us place in our midst light, the symbol of those who have ever led the way to new values of thought and action.

(She lights a tall white taper.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT (*in unison*):

In thanksgiving for the Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world, we turn our thoughts to Thee, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, in whose presence is no darkness at all and no shadow is cast by turning.

LITANY OF LIGHT:

Leader: Thou who hast clothed Thyself with the vestments of light,

Group: Lift up our hands, that we may lay hold on the hem of thy garment.

Leader: Thou whose glory is sung by the morning stars of light,

Group: Lift up our voices, that we may show forth thy praise.

Leader: Thou whose truths have been a lamp to the feet of those who have sought to understand thy purposes,

Group: Lift up our understanding, that we may apprehend thy thoughts and comprehend the reaches of thy love.

Leader: Thou who didst reveal thy saving health to all people by a Light that was set in darkness,

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Group: Lift up our eyes, that we may see thine unfolding salvation for the world.

Leader: Thou whose love to the world was expressed in the radiance of a human life,

Group: Lift up our hearts, to behold the beauty of daily living.

Leader: Thou who didst disentangle light from the darkness, who didst place in the heavens the sun and moon and stars, to guide the earthly traveler,

Group: Lift up our lives, that we may be worthy to enter the household of the sons and daughters of light, that our lives may illumine the search for those who are seeking the way.

(Here may be inserted a reading from "The Prophet," by Kahlil Gibran, on what it means to be a teacher, page 64, or from "Mabel Cratty," by Margaret Burton.)

A PRAYER FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUTH:

Leader: Thou who hast set eternity in our hearts, give us power to see the infinite reaches of the human spirit, the limitless achievement of human lives. Stir our imaginations, that we may fully see the eager of heart who are reaching out to lay swift hold of life. Because of our love of life, may we understand their haste; because of our high evaluation of it, may we make ready to guide them in their choice of the things for which they will exchange their lives. Enlarge the capacity of our sympathies, that we may understand youth. Let their wonder find renewal in us; let their courage find reenforcement; let their loyalty find direction; let their powers find release in our freedom. Let us make adequate provision for youth. Free us from pettiness of thought and smallness of plan. God of the infinite purpose, Maker of the infinite spaces, fulfil thy glory in our living. Let us never be done with growing.

With courage to face past failures and to encounter the unexpected difficulties that we shall find both within and without us,

Group: Send us forth to do our work, O God.

Leader: With a diligence that shall not let our hand slack when our enthusiasm wanes,

A SERVICE OF CONSECRATION FOR ADVISERS OF GIRLS

Group: Send us forth to do our work, O God.

Leader: With an appreciation of the contribution of all who share with us the accomplishment of the common task,

Group: Send us forth to do our work, O God.

Leader: With open-mindedness to new truth, and with honesty in considering the opinions of those who differ from us,

Group: Send us forth to do our work, O God.

Leader: With magnanimity of spirit in vexatious circumstances, with generosity of mind to the ungenerous in thought or action,

Group: Send us forth to do our work, O God.

Leader: With eyes that look ahead to the future, with a faith that trusts where we cannot see,

Group: Send us forth to do our work, O God.

Leader: Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us, and give us grace to do our work with courage and with steadfastness, in thy name. *Amen.*

HYMN: "Forward Through the Ages" or "Those Who Love and Those Who Labor."

A Service upon the Theme of the Lord's Prayer

OPENING HYMN or PROCESSIONAL :

"Almighty Father, Who Dost Give."

Leader: Our soul hath waited for Jehovah:
He is our help and our shield.
For our heart shall rejoice in Him,
Because we have trusted in his holy name.
Let thy loving-kindness, O Jehovah, be upon us,
According as we have hoped in Thee.

CHORAL INVOCATION :

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven."

Leader: And He was praying at a certain place, and when He stopped, one of his disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples. Jesus said to them: In praying use not vain repetitions as the Gentiles do, for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not therefore like unto them, for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask Him. After this manner therefore pray ye:

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.

Response: I will bless thy name forever and ever.

Oh, magnify Jehovah with me
And let us exalt his name together.
Holy and reverend is his name,
His praise endureth forever.

CHOIR: "Holy Art Thou" (Handel).

Leader: THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS
IN HEAVEN.

A SERVICE UPON THE THEME OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Response: And Jesus went about all the cities and the villages preaching the gospel of the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.

Leader: Write the vision and make it plain upon tablets, that he may run that readeth it. Though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come. For the Kingdom of God is not in word but in power. Seek ye therefore his Kingdom and his righteousness.

HYMN: "God Is Working His Purpose Out" or "Thy Kingdom Come, O God."

Leader: GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD.

Response: Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of Lights, with whom can be no variation, neither shadow that is cast by turning. He that spared not his own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things? Jesus said: "I am the door. By me if any man enter in he shall be saved, and shall go in and go out, and shall find pasture."

READING: Matthew 6.25-33.

DUET: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (Smart).

HYMN: "Break Thou the Bread of Life" or "Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed."

Leader: AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

Response: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us, but if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

READING: Matthew 18:21-35.

HYMN: "Father, Hear Thy Children Call" or "Thou Judge by Whom Each Empire Fell."

Leader: AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

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Response: The Lord knoweth how to deliver you out of temptation. There hath no temptation taken you but such as man can bear, but God is faithful who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation make also the way of escape, that ye may be able to endure it. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

READING: Hebrews 4:14-16.

CHOIR: "King Alfred's Hymn" (MacDougall).

PRAYER:

O great God, who art ever at work in thy world, who bringest light out of darkness, joy out of sorrow, righteousness out of sin, grant that we thy servants may keep ever in our minds and hearts this the prayer that thy Son, Jesus Christ, has given us. Incline our hearts unto Thee, O Jehovah, that we, reviving our spirits through contact with thy divine Spirit, may go from strength to strength and come at last to thy everlasting joy.

All: FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOREVER. *Amen.*

CHORAL BENEDICTION: "The Lord Bless Thee."

A Service of Thanksgiving for Beauty

PRELUDE (*MacDowell's "Sea Pieces," "To a Water-Lily"; Schumann's "Prophet-Bird"*).

CALL TO WORSHIP: "The Lord Is in His Holy Temple."

ANTIPHON OF PRAISE — based on "A Song in Praise of the Lord of Heaven and Earth."¹

Reader: O come, let us worship and fall down,
And kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

O sing unto the Lord a new song;
Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.
Sing unto the Lord, bless his name;
Show forth his salvation from day to day.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
Fear before Him, all the earth.

Choir. Sky so bright,
Blue and light,
Stars how many hast thou?
Countless stars.
Countless times
Shall our God be praised now.

Reader: O sing unto the Lord a new song,
For He hath done marvelous things:
Sing unto the Lord with the harp,
With the harp and the voice of a psalm.
With trumpets and sound of cornet
Make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King.
Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.

Choir: Deepest sea,
Wide and free,

SERVICES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

Waves how many hast thou?

Countless waves.

Countless times

Shall our God be praised now.

Reader: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord,

All ye lands.

Serve the Lord with gladness;

Come before his presence with singing.

Know ye that the Lord, He is God;

It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves;

We are his people,

And the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,

And into his courts with praise.

Be thankful unto Him,

And bless his name.

For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting;

And his truth endureth to all generations.

Choir: Eternity,

Hours how many hast thou?

Countless hours.

Countless times

Shall our God be praised now.

HYMN: "For the Beauty of the Earth."²

PRAYER OF PETITION:

Reader: Lord of all good gifts,

Again we come to Thee,

To explore in a new day the boundless realms of thy love
and grace.

We are like children wandering in a new and marvelous
garden,

Where each path leads to fresh wonderlands of delight,
Full of enchanted sweetness and hidden joy.

As we come before Thee in this new day,

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING FOR BEAUTY

We would drink from the unfathomable wells of thy love and grace.³

Grant us the wisdom of a loving heart, ever patient and kind.

Choir: We beseech Thee, hear us.

Reader: Grant us that strong sense of duty which refuses to yield to the inclination of the moment at the expense of the accomplishment of the future.

Choir: We beseech Thee, hear us.

Reader: Grant us the royal gift of courage, that we may do each disagreeable duty at once, and look at the future without fear of what it may bring.

Choir: We beseech Thee, hear us.

Reader: Grant us a keen sense of honor; that we may never give ourselves the benefit of the doubt, that we may be especially just to those whom we find it hard to like.

Choir: We beseech Thee, hear us.

Reader: Grant us a sense of humor keen toward ourselves and kind toward others.

Choir: We beseech Thee, hear us.

Reader: Grant us readiness to approach all conflicting issues with a desire to understand; make us helpful in criticism, slow to blame, quick to appreciate, and save us from unkind words and unkind silences.

Choir: We beseech Thee, hear us.

Reader: Grant us restrained and well-ordered ambition, so that we may be conscious of the things that are noble and beautiful.⁴

HYMN: "Fairest Lord Jesus."

READINGS ON BEAUTY⁵ — ending with the prayer:

Help us now to stand awhile in the shelter of thy shadowing wings, and to be still; to look out again upon life with new vision, that we may understand; to wait for the revelation of thy will that shall make us calm and strong.⁶

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HYMN: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (*Congregation remains standing for hymn, benediction and choral amen*).

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless thee and keep thee,
The Lord make his face to shine upon thee;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee,
And give thee peace.

CHORAL AMEN

¹ "A Song in Praise of the Lord of Heaven and Earth," by Franciscus Hagler. (Arranged for women's voices by Lucy Clark Street, Octavo No 149, H W Gray Co)

² If it is desired to use a processional and a recessional hymn, this hymn should be inserted after the prelude

³ *A Book of Prayers for Youth*, by J. S. Hoyland

⁴ *Acts of Devotion* (adapted) Macmillan

⁵ Suggested Readings

"The Dwelling Place," by Angela Morgan (in the *Girl's Every Day Book*, p. 24-5. Published by the Womans Press)

"Sic Vita," by William Stanley Braithwaite, in *The Book of American Negro Poetry*. Prayer from *A Silent Te Deum*, by John Oxenham

"Life Has Loveliness to Sell," by Sara Teasdale (in the *Girl's Every Day Book*, p 43)

"A Little Song of Life" (in the *Girl's Every Day Book*, p 72)

⁶ *The Temple*, by W. E Orchard Dutton

A Service of Penitence and Petition

OPENING SENTENCES:

My soul, wait thou in silence for God only,
For my expectation is from Him,
He only is my rock and my salvation,
He is my high tower; I shall not be moved.

Trust in Him at all times, ye people,
Pour out your hearts before Him.
God is a refuge for us.

Give ear to my words, O Lord,
Consider my meditation,
Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God;
For unto Thee do I pray.

O God, Thou art my God, earnestly will I seek Thee.
Bow down thine ear, O Lord, and answer me,
For I am poor and needy.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord,
For unto Thee do I cry all the day long.

QUARTETTE:

O rest in the Lord,
Wait patiently for Him,
And He shall give thee thy heart's desires. (Mendelssohn)

PRAYER:

O God, who art life and truth and blessedness, the only good, our hope and our hearts' joy; we thank Thee that Thou hast created us in thine image, and that we can direct our thoughts to Thee.

Make us to know Thee aright, and to enjoy and possess Thee more and more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Silence.

PRAYER:

At the beginning of this new year, our Father, we would search deep into our lives, that we may see wherein we have failed in the way of life which Thou hast appointed for us through thy Son, Christ Jesus; wherein we have sinned against Thee. As we search together may we be honest, piercing any insincerity that would keep us from the truth about ourselves, our weakness, our selfishness. Give us courage so to hold our lives in thy clear light that we may see them as Thou dost know them to be, poor, ineffectual and without inspiration to ourselves or others. O our God, humble and penitent we come with our confession, praying that Thou wilt forgive the failures of the past and help us to begin anew. *Amen.*

SOLO: "Father, Hear Thy Children's Call."

MEDITATION (*this can be used as a responsive reading, or read entirely by the leader*):

Leader. Thou, in all thy goodness, didst give us thy blessed Son, Christ Jesus, to show us Thyself, that in Him we might see Thee as Thou art, and man as Thou didst mean him to be. For our sakes thy Son, undeterred by our sin and blindness, lived out on earth thy life of holiness and power. For our sakes He offered Himself in love, spending his days in bringing new life to men. For our sins He suffered death upon the cross. For us, by his resurrection, He broke through death, triumphant, into life without end.

Let us search our hearts, that we may see what has been our response to his love:

If we have not believed on Him, nor gloried in Him as the Saviour of ourselves and others;

If we have made no fresh discoveries of Him who is inexhaustible; if we have not earnestly desired to know Him in the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings;

If He is not more and more the center of all our thoughts and the ground of all our hopes;

If we are not earnestly resolved to follow Him, to obey Him both

A SERVICE OF PENITENCE AND PETITION

in success and in failure, to hear and keep his every word, to prove and do his perfect will,

Response: Forgive us, our Father, and help us to turn anew to Him.

Silence.

Leader: Jesus said.

"Follow me. As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

"Ye call me Master and Lord, and ye say well, for so I am.

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."

Let us who call ourselves his followers examine our way of life, and our relationships with our fellow men:

If we say with our lips, "Lord, I will follow Thee," and with our lives refuse the cross, seeking self, coveting ease, reward, recognition;

If we are so preoccupied by our own petty concerns and activities that we cannot live each moment unto God;

If we are not detached in spirit, but care overmuch for money and the comfort and ease that money can buy;

If our manner of living is such that it repels those who have less than we, whether of mind, body or estate, and does not make them feel at home with us,

Response: Forgive us, our Father, and be with us as we commit ourselves again to thy way of life for us.

Leader: If we are so busy and absorbed that we fail in our companionship with our own family, offering our best to those outside, giving little or nothing to those at home; if we have been self-contained and superficial in our friendships, indifferent to the needs of others, with no understanding of their hopes and fears;

If we hold ourselves aside and make no ventures of fellowship with those whom we meet in day-by-day contact — those who serve us at home or in the market-place, and any others, whatever their class, creed, color;

If we do not know that we are responsible for the good life of every other person, and if we are failing so to live that people are

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encouraged and made happier through knowing us or through observing our manner of life,

Response: Forgive us, our Father, we pray Thee, and give us of thine own love as we set out anew to care for others as Christ Jesus cares for us.

Silence.

Leader: Christ Jesus, "though his communion with the Father was unbroken, yet sought help in prayer . . . though He loved men, He retired from them to pray, rose a great while before day, watched through a night, stayed in the wilderness, went up into a mountain, sought a garden. Though He was a Son, He offered up prayers and supplications, with strong crying and tears, and was heard for his godly fear. . . . Out of a human experience He taught us to do as He Himself had done — to seek, to knock, to ask, assured of answer far beyond the scale of human love."

Let us consider and study our ways of prayer:

If we do not take time to worship and adore, if we cannot forget ourselves; if the greatness, the mercy, the compassion, the understanding of God do not hold us;

If we begin any undertaking or continue any service without prayer or without expectancy, and fall into the secular mind;

If we care too little for others, or believe too little in God to be able to intercede with energy and faith;

If in our approaches to God in prayer we have been reluctant, hurried, unmannerly, casual, talkative; if we interrupt and cannot listen, cannot wait before God,

Response: Forgive us, we pray Thee, our Father, and teach us, that we may truly give ourselves to prayer and come to intimate communion with Thee.

Silence.

HYMN (all remaining seated): "God of the Strong, God of the Weak" or "Be Thou My Vision."

PRAYER:

Lord God, we are grateful that in the calm and peace of this hour

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we can with Thee search our lives and again dedicate ourselves to life in Thee. We go forth now into the new year, knowing our unworthiness, our inability to live out in our own strength the vision of a perfect life which Thou hast given us in Christ Jesus. But we are not dismayed, nor do we fear to fail, as we submit our lives afresh to thy way for us. Thou in all thy power and wisdom and love art utterly available to us. In Thee and through Thee we may penetrate into the secret of a life lived joyously and fully in the world yet wholly committed to Thee and to thy Way.

O Thou, in whom we live and move and have our being, we consecrate to Thee ourselves, our souls and our bodies, our thoughts and our desires, our words and our deeds, to be a living and continual sacrifice unto Thee, ever and forever.

DOUBLE AMEN (*choir or piano*).

Note Parts of these meditations and prayers are based upon *Towards a New Way of Life*, Student Christian Movement, London, *Fellowship Litany*, No 1, published at 13, Strensham Hill, Mosely, Birmingham; *A Book of Prayers for Students* The opening prayer is one of St. Anselm's (12th century).

A Service for a Patriotic Holiday

HYMN: "God of Our Fathers, Whose Almighty Hand."

READING: Hebrews 11.32 — 12:12.

PRAYER:

God of our nation, from whom doth proceed all true greatness, all true wisdom, we thank Thee for those great leaders who have been called to guide our national life in times of peril and those who by faith have wrought a mighty deliverance for us from great evils which have threatened us. Especially do we thank Thee for their courage, vision, unswerving devotion to duty, selflessness. May we show our grateful remembrance not by words but by a like faith in and intelligent devotion to our country. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, *Amen.*

LITANY OF INTERCESSION FOR OUR COUNTRY:

O God, the high and mighty Ruler of the universe, without whom nothing is great, nothing is strong,

Have mercy upon our country.

O God, who in thy Son, Jesus Christ, didst reveal a way of life for us and for all men, wherein we might walk as children of one Father,

Have mercy upon our country.

O God, who not by might nor by power but by thy Spirit dost move the hearts of men,

Have mercy upon our country.

From the love of gain and possession, from materialism and the worship of Mammon,

O Lord, deliver us.

From all cruelty and oppression of our fellow men, from the evils of our industrial system, from all subordination of human life and labor to selfish ends,

A SERVICE FOR A PATRIOTIC HOLIDAY

O Lord, deliver us.

From overbearing national pride, from thinking that Thou dost love our own nation more than any other, from all false patriotism,

O Lord, deliver us.

From racial injustice, from religious prejudice, from all disloyalty to truth and justice,

O Lord, deliver us.

Almighty God, whose service is perfect freedom, for all those who, in high place or low, have labored that our country may be grounded and established in freedom, in freedom for human life, in freedom for thought and opinion, for religion and worship,

We thank Thee.

From all that from time to time threatens this heritage,

O Lord, deliver us.

For all those who, in high place or low, have labored to establish justice in our land, justice that shall deliver us from all domination of class, or wealth, or race,

We thank thee.

From all that threatens in our land the impartial administration of this justice,

O Lord, deliver us.

For all those who have labored to guard and secure the homes of our land, that they may be saved from vice, selfish indulgence, and anything that endangers child life,

We thank thee.

From all that threatens the homes of our land,

O Lord, deliver us.

By remembrance of all who have truly served our country, the remembrance of their life and labors, their sufferings, their devotion and their martyrdom, confirm in us the determination that we shall not be found unworthy of our heritage. Govern us, O God, and lift us up forever. *Amen.*

HYMN: "O Beautiful for Spacious Skies."

A Service for Holy Week

CALL TO WORSHIP :

O come and stand before the Lord and praise his holy name.

Almighty God, we join with all the company of thy servants who in all lands and places worship Thee and praise thy holy name.

PRAYER :

God of all power and ruler of all worlds,
Save us, we pray Thee, from empty sentiment,
From the impulse to cover naked facts
With a false clothing of cheap and tawdry affectation.

Save us from vapid emotion and frothy enthusiasm,
From contentment with pleasant half-truths,
From the temptation to hide harsh reality
Beneath a soft coating of effeminate idealism.

Make of us women fitted to encounter unflinchingly the grim
facts of life and death

In all their cruelty and in all their glory,
Women fitted to feel all the bitter meaning of these facts,
Yet to perceive also the stern beauty behind them.

Clear from our minds all hypocrisy and pretence,
All pious shams, all hoary lies,
That we may deal directly with reality,
Fearing nothing, dissembling nothing, shirking nothing.

Give us a resolution to know the truth at any cost,
And, having known it, to transform it into another truth, another
realm of reality,

In which thy will shall reign; that so cruel facts may be seen to
be merciful facts,

And this harsh world become thy Kingdom of Heaven.¹

A SERVICE FOR HOLY WEEK

MEDITATION:

In this — the Holy Week of this most unholy year, we cannot come into the presence of God and ask for paltry little gifts. Sometimes in our prayers we seem so concerned with our demands on God, with what we need of God, that we fail to concentrate on what God demands of us — what God needs of us that his Kingdom may come among men. Men cannot underbid God. To call oneself a child of God, to acknowledge God as Father, means the giving of loyalty, love, absolute devotion of will and mind and heart to the demands of that relationship. The cry from Gethsemane, “Nevertheless, Father, not as I will but as Thou wilt,” is the most significant cry ever uttered by human lips. It is the real death and the beginning of the resurrection. One lone man knelt in a dark garden, facing the demands which God made on him, and the course of human history has been different.

We are a company of women devoted to the task of God’s Kingdom, concerned that God may be regnant in society. That is a stupendous undertaking. We may do no more than thin the ranks of chaos, but let us face the challenge of our day and our God, and know what is demanded of us.

Let us meditate in silence.

Though Christ a thousand times
In Bethlehem be born,
If He’s not born in thee
Thy soul is still forlorn.
The cross on Golgotha
Will never save thy soul,
The cross in thine own heart
Alone can make thee whole.

Whate’er thou lovest, man,
That too become thou must —
God if thou lovest God,
Dust if thou lovest dust.
Go out, God will go in.

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Die thou, and let Him live.
Be not, and He will be.
Wait, and He'll all things give.

To bring thee to thy God
Love takes the shortest route;
The way which knowledge leads
Is but a round-about.
Drive out from thee the world
And then like God thou'lt be,
A heaven within thyself
In calm eternity.

Let but thy heart, O man,
Become a valley low,
And God shall rain on it
Till it shall overflow.
Oh, shame!— the silkworm works
And spins till it can fly,
And thou, my soul, wilt still
On thine old earth-clod lie?

Man, if the time on earth
Should seem too long for thee,
Then turn to God and live,
Time-free, eternally.²

Let us pray.

O God, whom we dare to call Father, strip us of our masks and our defenses. Grant us the courage to look with clarity on the social conflict of our day, asking only to see the truth that is there to be acted on. Let there be no staleness nor sediment in us. Spare us no suffering that will make us stronger and promote thy Kingdom's coming. Let us yield to the unceasing demands of life with the dignity and grace that come from the peace in a heart that is at one with Thee.

We can ask in this day of crisis no pitiful little gifts; we can ask only the ultimate gift — that we may be clear vessels for the expression of thy Holy Spirit. We know that that gift is given only in ex-

A SERVICE FOR HOLY WEEK

change for all we have and are. Let us, our Father, never cease to pay the price of life — of eternal and abundant life.

Silence.

BENEDICTION:

Give us now, O God, thy Holy Spirit to strengthen us for the work of these days. *Amen.*

¹ *A Book of Prayers for Youth*

² *Angellus Silesius*

A Service for Whitsuntide

HYMN: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God."

READING: Acts 1:1-8; 2:1-21.

PRAYER:

O God, who hast prepared for them that love Thee such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee in all and above all, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to come to a right judgment in all things, and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort, through the merits of Christ Jesus, our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

HYMN: "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart."

RESPONSIVE READING:

Leader: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, good-temper, kindness, generosity, fidelity, gentleness, self-control.

Response: The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Leader: The mind of the Spirit is life and peace.

Response: The Spirit also helps us in our weakness; for we know not how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself pleads for us with an agony of desire that is beyond words.

Leader: God gave us not a spirit of fear but of power and love and discipline.

Response: Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is unity.

A SERVICE FOR WHITSUNTIDE

Leader: Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you have been sealed unto the day of redemption.

Response: If any man has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his.

Leader: Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that God's spirit dwells in you?

Response: He that sows unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life.

Leader: Now there are varieties of talents but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of service but the same Lord.

And there are varieties of effects, but the same God, who effects everything in everyone. Each one receives his manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Response: For to one is given through the Spirit words of wisdom, and to another words of knowledge, through the same Spirit; and to another the gift of healing; and to another the working of miracles; and to another the ability to prophesy; and to another discerning of spirits; to another the gift of tongues; and to another the interpretation of tongues, but in all these one and the same Spirit is at work, dividing to each one severally as he will.

Leader: As many as are led by the Spirit, these are the Sons of God.

Response. If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk.

HYMN:

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me" or "O Holy Spirit, Enter In."

PRAYER:

Spirit divine,
Spirit eternal of life and love,
Striving forever to tear thy way forth
(Like a drowning man sunk deep in miry waters)
From the iron bonds of necessity,
From the fetters of space and of matter,
From the grip of the beast,
In conscious and active loving;
God of joy and light, who lovest our souls unto death and
beyond,
Spirit of power,

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Oh, shake Thyself free in us this day from all that hinders thy full self-expression.¹

O Thou, who art the Light of the minds that know Thee, the Life of the souls that love Thee, and the Strength of the hearts that serve Thee, help us so to know Thee that we may truly love Thee, so to love Thee that we may fully serve Thee, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BENEDICTION:

Now the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing that we may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

¹ Source unknown

A Service for World Fellowship Observance

Leader: It shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains and it shall be exalted above the hills and people shall flow into it. And many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths for the law shall go forth of Zion and the word of God from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations afar off, and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig-tree and none shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. (Micah 4:1-4)

Choral Response: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Hosts
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.

PRAYER:

Leader: O God, who hast made man in thine own likeness and who dost love all whom Thou hast made, suffer us not, because of differences in race, color, or conditions, to separate ourselves from others and thereby from Thee; but teach us the unity of thy family and the universality of thy love. As thy Son, our Saviour, was born of a Hebrew mother and ministered first to his brethren of the House of Israel, but rejoiced in the faith of a Syro-Phoenician woman and the belief of a Roman soldier, and suffered his cross to be carried by a black man out of Africa, teach us also, while loving and serving our own, to enter into the communion of the whole family. And forbid that, from pride or hardness of heart,

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we should despise any for whom Christ died or injure any in whom He lives. *Amen.*

HYMN: "O God of Earth and Altar" or "O, Brother Man."

RESPONSIVE READING:

Leader: God hath made of one blood all nations under Heaven.

Response: Jesus said, Other sheep have I which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice and there shall be one flock, one shepherd.

Leader: Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. (*Pause*)

These words spoke Jesus: Neither pray I for these alone but for them also which shall believe on me through their word. And the glory thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.

Response: The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever.

PRAYER (*in unison*):

O Father of men, who hast promised that all the kingdoms of this world are to become the Kingdom of thy Son; purge the nations of error and corruption; overthrow the power of sin, and establish the kingdom of grace in every land. Incline the hearts of all rulers and peoples to open their gates to the Lord of lords and King of glory. May He enter into their cities, churches and homes to dwell there, and govern all things by his word and spirit. So may justice, mercy and peace prevail among the nations and thy name be glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

HYMN: "Lead On, O King Eternal" or "The Prince of Peace His Banner Spreads."

Note: If choral readings are desired by those who adapt this service to their own groups, the following selections are particularly appropriate:

World's Great Religious Poetry, compiled by Caroline Miles Hill (Macmillan):

"God Prays," Angela Morgan

"In the Dawn," Odell Shepard

"The New Victory," Margaret Widdemer

Survey Graphic, December 1940, page 601

"Ultimatum for Man," Peggy Pond Church

Federal Council Bulletin, Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, March, 1940:

"There Is a Man on the Cross," Elizabeth Cheney

A Service for a Time of Confusion or Conflict

Leader: We gather in this place to seek the strength, courage and sense of purpose to guide us through these days. We do not seek a surface and meaningless unity of thought. Rather we dare to come—each being true to his innermost convictions and having respect for one another's beliefs—that we may seek to renew within ourselves the sense of God's presence. We leave for a moment the confusion and distractions which events crowd upon us, to seek those eternal values against which all our daily striving must be measured.

How then shall we come into the presence of God? Shall we come carelessly, bowing before Him in a conventional manner, as if by an outward gesture we would expect to have our needs fulfilled?

On the contrary, we know that the only thing required of us is a deep sincerity in the search for a life that is rooted and grounded in God. It is not necessary that we have already found Him. We know that even those who have had glimpses of what his way means are not able to feel Him near and real all the time. Yet we have a restless sense of longing to be in closer touch with God. We feel that without Him we are only partly alive; without the resources of strength and poise which communion with his spirit brings, the possibilities of our lives can never be fully realized.

Each person has to find God for himself. There are no easy formulas. But one means of help in the search is to use the words of others who have sought and found Him, words that have withstood the test of years. Such a record of experience is found in the words of Samuel Johnson, whose hymn we shall now sing.

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HYMN: "Father, in Thy Mysterious Presence Kneeling."

Leader: Out of the treasure-house of the Bible come many records of man's longing and search for God. Do you remember how the Psalmist expressed it? (*The leader reads Psalm 130:1-6.*)

And do you remember the note of faith and assurance which answers that cry? (*The leader reads Psalm 90:1 and 2; Psalm 91:1-10; Psalm 46:1-5, to "she shall not be moved," 7, 9 and 10, ending with, "Be still and know that I am God."*)

PRAYER.

O God, all-understanding, we rest a moment on the way and make our common prayer.

If there be any that have come here seeking guidance in trouble, may the path be revealed.

If there be any who come worn by the struggle to make ideals and life match, may they find here quiet conviction.

If there be any who have enclosed themselves in the assurance of their own goodness, may they find here some vision to shatter that barrier between themselves and Thee.

To all who are earnestly sorry for their shortcomings and their wanderings, in the sincerity of their search for thy way, may there come a new joy in life.

To all who care about their world and what it might become, may there be here a channel through which their high desires may flow.

To all who are seeking a way to build something of the Highway of God, may there come the peace of a life ever amending itself, and ever coming to a fuller knowledge of the truth.

O Lord, our God, the help of those that turn unto Thee, the hope of those that look unto Thee, cleanse us from every thought displeasing to thy goodness, that with a pure heart and a quiet mind, with perfect love and calm hope, we may venture, in this moment of meditation, confidently and fearlessly to pray unto Thee.¹

God of all wisdom, source of light and meaning behind our universe, save us from an ignorance which makes us think we know all things. May we have the humble heart and quiet mind of the truly

A SERVICE FOR A TIME OF CONFUSION OR CONFLICT

wise, who sense the unknowable where human knowledge stops, and feel the unseen beyond the bounds of sight. May we be as courageous as true science, and as honest as true religion. May we dare to live what we know and find in it the joy of living, that the sons of men shall be free and become thy sons, O God, through Christ. *Amen.*²

CLOSING HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Leader: And now as we go back to our tasks, we ask for God's blessing on all that we do. We ask Him to help us to be true to our finest instincts. We seek to follow Christ in a world that has forsaken his way. We need his help that we may ever be sensitive to the needs of those around us—and ever more understanding of the differing gifts which each one brings to this Association. With God's help, we will dare to challenge those customs and attitudes which are a denial of Christ's way in our community and world. May we never rest content while racial injustice, marked economic inequalities and religious intolerance exist. Without a strong sense of God's presence we shall be weak and powerless to put Christ's principles into action. May we take from this service the conviction that in God we have a sure foundation for our lives—and resolve to find ways in which each one of us can build a part of his Kingdom in this community—now. We ask his help in this great task. *Amen.*

¹ Adapted from Basil, Fourth Century

² Prayers from *The Commonplace Prodigal* by Allan Knight Chalmers (Henry Holt and Co.).

A Service for Today

OPENING HYMN (*sung in unison or by the choir*): First stanza of "Eternal Ruler of the Ceaseless Round."

LITANY FOR TODAY:

Leader: Unto Thee, O Lord, we cry in the darkness of the world's night. Our hearts are burdened with the knowledge of terror, anguish and want beyond the power of our minds to grasp. We remember the agony of the persecuted, the despair of the exiled, the sorrow of the bereft. Darkness has fallen, the fear-ridden darkness of man's inhumanity to man;

Response: Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord.

Leader: Thy children grope their way in fear and dread lest worse befall. When cruelty and the destruction it has wrought tempt to bitterness and hatred; when the desire to avenge and punish seeks to gain control; when good is hindered; when hope deferred maketh the heart sick, when fear would seek advantage by unworthy means,

Response: Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord.

Leader: When desire for security brings carelessness of others' sufferings; when narrow nationalism turns away from the larger good; when false pride, ignorance and prejudice, intolerance and scorn, suspicion and mistrust, ungenerous judgments, selfishness, slackness and unwillingness to sacrifice lead us astray;

Response: Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord.

Leader: Because by reason of strength and security we have been self-satisfied, self-seeking and self-confident; because we have not borne our full share of the effort to achieve peace and security among the nations; because we have done so little to establish peace, that our hearts are heavy with shame and sorrow;

Response: Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord.

Leader: Because in all ages Thou hast harkened unto the cry of thy

Main

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children, and brought them out of darkness, and hast ever made those who walked in darkness to see a great light;

Response: Lighten our darkness, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Choir Response: "Send Out Thy Light and Thy Truth, Let Them Lead Me."

Leader: He will lead thee in paths thou hast not known, and darkness shall be light before thee.

Response. If I say, Peradventure the darkness shall cover me, then shall my night be turned to day.

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

Response: Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us gird on the armor of light.

Leader: And may God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

HYMN: "Light of the World, We Hail Thee" or "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow."

ADDRESS (*if desired*)

Leader:

Ye that have faith to look with fearless eyes
Beyond the tragedy of a world at strife,
And know that out of death and night shall rise
The dawn of ampler life;

Rejoice, whatever anguish rend the heart,
That God has given you the priceless dower
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour.

That ye may tell your sons who see the light
High in the heavens—their heritage to take—
"I saw the powers of darkness take their flight;
I saw the morning break."¹

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HYMN (*tune, St. Anne*):

O God, whose ways shall lead to peace,
Enlighten us, we pray;
Dispel our darkness and increase
The light along our way.

Illumine those who lead the lands,
That they may make at length
The laws of right to guide the hands
That wield the nations' strength.

O God, who callest us to peace,
We join with everyone
Who does his part that wars may cease
And justice may be done.

Enable us to take the way
The Prince of Peace hath trod,
Create the will to build each day
The family of God.²

Leader: O Thou who hast set before us the vision of a world of peace and righteousness, and hast called us into cooperation with Thyself in bringing it to pass, help us to do all that we can, not despising small things, nor doubting thy power to use them. May each of us play her full part in helping to break down barriers, to build bridges of understanding, and to hasten the day when every man and every nation shall be assured the opportunity for abundant life. This we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer,
And grant us thy peace.

CLOSING HYMN: "We Would Be Building."

We would be building; temples still undone
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift;
Waiting till love can raise the broken stone
And hearts creative bridge the human rift;
We would be building, Master, let thy plan,
Reveal the life that God would give to man.

A SERVICE FOR TODAY

Teach us to build; upon the solid rock
We set the dream that hardens into deed,
Ribbed with the steel that time and change doth mock,
Th' unfailing purpose of our noblest creed;
Teach us to build; O Master, lend us sight
To see the towers gleaming in the light.
O keep us building, Master; may our hands
Ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs;
We build with Thee; O grant enduring worth,
Until the heav'nly Kingdom comes on earth.³

Leader: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us, and give us peace.

¹ Owen Seaman

² Rolland W. Schloerb

³ Purd E. Dietz. Music from "Finlandia" In *The Hymnal* or from the Westminster Press, Philadelphia, Pa

SERVICES OF ESPECIAL APPROPRIATENESS
TO Y.W.C.A. GROUPS

A Service for a Day of Retreat

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.
All things were made by Him. Without Him was not anything
made.

In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men.

Response:

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever
Thou hadst formed the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

Leader:

Show us thy way, O Lord. Teach us thy paths.

Response:

Guide us in thy truth and teach us,
For Thou art the God of our salvation.

Leader:

If with all your heart ye truly seek me,
Ye shall ever truly find me.
Thus saith our God.

HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past."

LITANY:

Leader: In these quiet moments we pause to give thanks for the
privilege of working together in the Young Women's Christian
Association.

Response: We give Thee thanks, O God.

Leader: For all the ways our lives are linked together through com-
mon aspirations and common purpose, through mutual sympathy
and understanding, through shared responsibilities and common
difficulties,

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Response: We give Thee thanks, O God.

Leader: For friendships made, and a fuller appreciation of differences, for the kinship that has come to us through hours of sharing common problems, for experiences of fellowship which have enriched our lives,

Response: We give Thee thanks, O God.

Leader: For increased awareness of the strength and unity of our Association movement,

Response: We give Thee thanks, O God.

Leader: For the searching scrutiny of our own motives and methods, which leadership demands of us,

Response: Give us thy strength, O God.

Leader: For a deeper understanding of the conflicts and struggles within our nation and the world,

Response: We pray Thee, O God.

Leader: For a growing conviction that a purpose greater than ourselves enables us to live together in cooperation, with mutual respect,

Response: We pray Thee, O God.

Leader: Accept our gratitude, O God, and gird our minds and spirits for the work that is ours to do.

MUSIC (vocal or instrumental)

MEDITATION:

Leader: We gather here today, women of many minds, alike in that we all are the work of thy hands and that we seek thy new world of righteousness and justice and beauty. We are indeed "heirs of all the ages of thy creative efforts, fruits of all of the conflicts, the hard-worn progress, the sacrifice, the agony of the past." We remember those great souls who left all to follow their vision of truth and democracy. To them we owe the glory of our inheritance.

Are we aware that the passing on of this heritage depends on our faithfulness and courage?

Silence.

Leader: The great leaders of our Association have found from their

experience with girls and women some of the secrets of effective leadership. Let us hear their words as they speak to us from the past and the present.

"The Young Women's Christian Association seeks the Kingdom of Heaven not as a far-off divine event but as a present possibility. Older women bring their sifted experience and sense of proportion in separating chaff from wheat. Young women bring their directness and their vigor to the search. All bring needs and desires. As we together share the experiences of every day, we believe that every ray of light that comes, comes to us from the True Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

Are we as leaders in the Young Women's Christian Association working with people in such a way that fellowship becomes a real experience to us and to them?

Silence.

Leader: One of our present-day leaders speaks of religion:

"It is a part of any practical acceptance of religion that, whatever we do about life, it has to be done about the kinds of people who live in the world. Must not the ethics of our religion square with what people really want and need for the growth of their natures? We are purposing to help girls and women mature. In this effort we share the creativity which is the heart of the universe."

Are we making it possible for those with whom we work to achieve personal dignity?

Silence.

Leader: If there is to be peace, if we are to build a world community, "there must be within each of us an adventurous willingness for international goodwill, which begins with understanding the needs, conflicts and hatreds in our own society." Our membership is a small world, yet even here we need courage to cross dividing lines. It was said of Miss Cratty that "her love for people carried her across national barriers, racial antipathies and class prejudice. She always saw beauty in the hearts of people. She was determined

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that people be given every chance before being made to suffer the blight of failure."

Are we adventurous enough, are we courageous enough, are we honest enough to make the struggle for peace and world understanding?

Silence.

Leader. Let us remind ourselves of the high goals and prophetic insight of our purpose, and reaffirm it, each for herself, this hour.

Unison: "To build a fellowship of women and girls devoted to the task of realizing in our common life those ideals of personal and social living to which we are committed by our faith as Christians. In this endeavor we seek to understand Jesus, to share his love for all people, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God."

Leader: "God grant us wisdom in these coming days,
And eyes unsealed, that we clear visions see
Of that new world which He would have us build,
To life's ennoblement and his high ministry."

PRAYER:

O God our Father, who hast set us to serve thy holy will in the midst of hurrying days, grant us quiet and poise of spirit, and a mind at home in Thee. Teach us a habit of deep leisure of soul, which is time spent in eternity, free from the tyranny of things and the passing shows of the world. Help us to practice thy presence in joyous communion, to gain thence fresh insight into eternal values and new stores of grace and power for a wiser service to our fellow men. Build us up in thy own nature; endue us with thy peace that our labor may be unhasting and unresting. May we learn of Him who, nourished by nights of prayer, went about doing good; even Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*¹

HYMN: "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee."

¹ From *Altar Stairs*, a little book of prayer by Joseph Fort Newton (Macmillan).

A Service for the Dedication of a Building

PROCESSIONAL: "Father of Lights."

Leader:

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

O magnify the Lord with me, let us exalt his name together.

HYMN: "Holy, Holy, Holy."

INVOCATION:

In the joy of this hour may our hearts be lifted up to Thee, O Giver of all things bountiful and holy, that the melody upon our lips may become the song within our hearts, pouring forth gratitude and praise for the richness of thy blessing that has brought us to this occasion. May we enter into this service with the consciousness of thy presence within our hearts, knowing Thee as the source of inspiration and guidance for all that is best in the achievement of our labors.

May there flow into us new faith and strength, that this hour may mark the beginning of new endeavors, to the glory of God and the establishment of his Kingdom among men.

This we ask in the name of thy Son, to whom we send our supplication.

Leader: In the vision that we have seen of the future that lies before us, in the inspiration that we have received from the knowledge of things achieved, it is fitting and proper that we recognize this building as a tangible and material symbol which stands for the ever-deepening and ever-widening growth of the organization to which we are devoted.

In the world of man, life is sustained both by the physical and by the spiritual. Too often the physical, or that which is material, is mistaken as the ultimate goal of man's desire. Material achieve-

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ments have meaning only as they are translated into terms of the spirit, to be used for the enrichment of the soul in its reach toward God. Therefore we are gathered here today to dedicate this house to the service of that greater ideal which can be measured only by the achievement of the soul. (*Pause.*)

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all.

Response: "Glory Be to the Father."

Leader: Both riches and honor come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; in thine hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength to all.

Response: All things come of Thee, O Lord.

Leader: Now, therefore, our God, we thank Thee and praise thy glorious name.

Response: Therefore with angels and archangels
And all the company of heaven
We laud and magnify thy glorious name,
Evermore praising Thee, and saying,
Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts;
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory
Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. *Amen.*

RESPONSIVE READING: "Of Houses."¹

Leader: "Then a mason came forth and said, Speak to us of houses.

Response: "And he answered and said: Your house is your larger body.

Leader: "It grows in the sun and sleeps in the stillness of the night; and it is not dreamless. Does not your house dream, and dreaming, leave the city for grove or hilltop?

Response: "Tell me, what have you in your houses? And what is it you guard with fastened doors?

Leader: "Have you peace, the quiet urge that reveals your power?

Response: "Have you remembrances, the glimmering arches that span the summits of the mind?

A SERVICE FOR THE DEDICATION OF A BUILDING

Leader: "Have you beauty, that leads the heart from things fashioned of wood and stone to the holy mountain?"

Response: "Tell me, have you these in your houses?"

Leader: "Verily, your house shall not be an anchor but a mast.

Response: "You shall not fold your wings that you may pass through doors, nor bend your heads that they strike not against a ceiling, nor fear to breathe lest walls should crack and fall down.

Leader: "You shall not live in tombs made by the dead for living;

Response: "And though of magnificence and splendor, your house shall not hold your secret nor shelter your longing.

All: "For that which is boundless in you abides in the mansion of the sky, whose door is the morning mist and whose windows are the songs and the silences of the night."

PRESENTATION OF KEYS

ACCEPTANCE

SERVICE OF DEDICATION:

Leader: Here is our home, brought into being by the need which the growth of our organization has brought about. From the small beginning of — years ago great things have come. Clubs formed, membership increased, activities expanded; we have become an organization growing, living from within, with a renewed sense of the relationship of youth and maturity, of the individual and the community, of the community and God. Years ago there was but a vision of these possibilities, today—a milestone reached along the way.

Wisely has it been written,

"Dreams grow holy put in action; work grows fair."

Into our building have gone both dreams and labor. That this home may remain fair and holy, let us now dedicate it to the service of God and his Son, Jesus, who came to earth to teach us the way of the selfless life.

To Youth, who can dream dreams and with courage turn its dreams into action, we dedicate this house.

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Response: "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life longing for itself."

Leader: To Women, who with patience, love and unswerving purpose devote themselves to a true understanding of youth and the problems of youth, we dedicate this house.

Response:

Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it.

The heart of him that hath understanding hath knowledge.

Leader: To Youth and Age, who together seek the more abundant life, that the fullness of God's blessing may abide on the earth, we dedicate this house.

Response: "To build a fellowship of women and girls devoted to the task of realizing in our common life those ideals of personal and social living to which we are committed by our faith as Christians.

"In this endeavor we seek to understand Jesus, to share his love for all people, and to grow in the knowledge and love of God."

Leader: And to God who is the source of all knowledge and love, who is the inspiration of all things holy; to God who gave us the gift of his Son, that we might have life everlasting, we give back this house, dedicating it to the glory of God, now and evermore.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

We do not presume to dedicate this house, O Lord of heaven and earth, without dedicating ourselves to the unfinished task which we have received from Thee. We desire to place ourselves and whatever we undertake in thy hands. Direct us in this and all our doings, with thy most gracious favor and further us with thy continued help, that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*²

Response: Hear our prayer, O Lord.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "For the Beauty of the Earth."

RECESSIONAL: "Forward Through the Ages."

¹ Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet*. Other quotations from the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer.

² This prayer of dedication was used by the Maria Morgan Branch of the Dallas Y.W.C.A. and by other Associations. An original prayer may be substituted.

Recognition Service for New Student Members

PROCESSIONAL: "Creation's Lord, We Give Thee Thanks."

CANDLE LIGHTING AND FORMING OF TRIANGLE IN THE CHANCEL

UNISON INVOCATION:

O Almighty God, from whom every good prayer cometh, who pourest out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and supplication, deliver us when we draw nigh to Thee from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship Thee in spirit and in truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

WELCOME:

We are gathered here today in recognition of our loyalty to the Young Women's Christian Association, a world-wide organization which unites the women of all races in the service of Jesus. We have lighted our small candles at this great one as a symbol of his light which we would carry with us always in our hearts. May his spirit ever grow in the hearts of all mankind and finally illumine the whole world.

NEW TESTAMENT READING:

Jesus said to his disciples, "Every tree is known by its fruit. They do not pick figs of thorns, or gather grapes from brambles. A good man, out of the good he has accumulated in his heart, produces good, and a bad man, out of what he has accumulated that is bad, produces what is bad. For his mouth says only what his heart is full of. Why do you call me: 'Lord! Lord!' and do not what I tell you? If anyone comes to me and listens to this teaching of mine and acts upon it, I will show you whom he is like. He is like a man who was building a house, who dug deep and laid his foundation upon the rock, and when there was a flood the torrent burst upon that house and could

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not shake it, because it was well built. But the man who listens to it, and does not act upon it, is like a man who built a house on the ground, without any foundation. The torrent burst upon it, and it collapsed at once, and the wreck of that house was complete."¹

HYMN: "Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation" or "We Would Be Building" (*tune, "Finlandia"*).

READING OF THE PURPOSE:

Through the Y.W.C.A. we join with many women of varying ages and interests in the national movement. We participate with students of other countries in the World's Student Christian Federation. Recognizing this fellowship, let us repeat together the national student purpose:

"We unite in the desire to realize full and creative life through a growing knowledge of God.

"We determine to have a part in making this life possible for all people.

"In this task we seek to understand Jesus and follow Him."

UNISON HYMN (*tune, "Winchester New"*):²

Father in Heaven, who lovest all,
O help thy children when they call,
That they may build from age to age
An undefiled heritage.

Teach us to bear the yoke in youth
With steadfastness and careful truth;
That in our time thy grace may give
The truth whereby the nations live.

Teach us the strength that cannot seek
By deed or thought to hurt the weak;
That, under Thee, we may possess
Man's strength to comfort man's distress.

Teach us delight in simple things,
And mirth that has no bitter springs;
Forgiveness free of evil done,
And love to all men 'neath the sun.

A MODERN READING:

In the words of a student poet of our own generation let us consider the heritage of youth and our responsibility for our world.

We hold that life works haltingly through us,
Using for its dark ends our hands, our hearts,
That life is one vast movement, and as men
We are its passing and eternal parts.

There is a force that drives us on, and yet
We are that force and sometimes have controlled it,
There is an actual power that we are,
Our mind and actions, but we cannot hold it.

O splendid flame that madly makes us men,
Drives and defies, destroys but to create us,
Bring million-mannered life, bring single death,
We will accept what utter ends await us.

There is a long frontier in our own heart
That we will follow till the last shores bend
Blackly away down to the final land,
With laughter and with courage to the end.

There is a forest where we walk our lives
Away beneath the spruces and the larch,
It is not that we die beneath those trees,
But always that we march, O that we march!

O South Pass where the ox and wagon broke
And men fought westward through the stone and snow,
O land beyond the great pass of the world,
Desert or Eldorado, still we go!³

MUSIC (*from "Parsifal" or "Finlandia" or something similar*).

UNISON PRAYER:

O God our heavenly Father, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we beseech Thee to bestow thy blessing on our university. We praise Thee for the heritage into which we have entered,

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and pray Thee to make us worthy to maintain and strengthen all that is good in our tradition.

Give to all who work here the true love of knowledge which makes all study a discovery and a joy. May the spirit of loyalty and devotion bind us all more closely together, that we may labor not for our own advantage, but for the common good.

May thy wisdom guide and prosper our work, our cabinets and groups, that we may grow in the love of all that is true and honest and of good report. May we carry with us the ideal and the power of service which we see in Jesus. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL: "Once to Every Man and Nation."

¹ Luke 6 44-49

² Hymns from *Hymns for Worship* (Association Press)

³ From the poem, "Letter to an Elder Generation," by Paul Engle

A Service for the Close of a Conference

MUSIC

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands, and come before his presence with singing. Give thanks unto the Lord, make known his deeds among the people.

PRAYER

HYMN: "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life."

Leader: O God and Father of us all, breathe upon us now thy hallowed calm; lift the burden from our hearts, soothe the anxieties of our minds, and send peace into our souls.

Forgive the disorder, the fever, the vain purposes of our lives. We have made haste as those who believe not. . . . Our eyes have been fixed upon the earth and rarely lifted to the hills. We have not silenced ourselves to hear or been patient to understand. . . . Help us now to stand awhile in the shelter of thy shadowing wings, and to be still; to look out again upon life with new vision, that we may understand. *Amen.*

Response (by Congregation): Even as we offer our prayer we are aware that we have often failed to realize the fellowship we might have known. In thy presence we look into our hearts and know that we have often denied the love we have professed. We ask ourselves whether we have built a fellowship:

- if we do not know one another;
- if some take and cannot give and others give and cannot take;
- if some speak with fear and some with favor;
- if some have power over the thoughts and actions of others;
- if some must walk the streets in search of jobs that do not exist or work for wages that deny them life;

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—if some turn aside when others must face oppression and death;
—if we cannot speak to one another of God.

We have spoken our love with our lips. We pray that it may become part of our living. May there be none now or henceforth lonely or hungry of heart among us, none who carry heavy burdens of sorrow or anxiety unshared. Grant each of us, we pray, a greater capacity for love and a greater consciousness of being loved.

SPIRITUAL: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian."

Lord, I want to be a Christian

In-a my heart, in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

Refrain:

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian

In-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving, etc.

Lord, I want to be more holy, etc.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus, etc.

MEDITATION

Leader: We are here as members of the Young Women's Christian Association devoted to a task to which we are committed as Christians. To have begun to live this commitment is to live by choice and not by default; it is to find the freedom of the struggle; it is to know one's self on the side of life. It is to risk the uncertainty of a way not yet charted because of faith we cannot deny.

To face our commitment with maturity is to be able to be a person inevitably alone and inescapably bound to her fellows without loss of integrity or loyalty; to be able to face the conflict necessary to growth without anxiety and without despair; to be able to live the present so that the temporal is the eternal; to take responsibility for life and to let life live us; to be able to act and to be able to wait. It is to lose our inferiority and our impotence because we need not trust our own strength; it is to know that within the task is the power for its accomplishment. The task belongs not to

A SERVICE FOR THE CLOSE OF A CONFERENCE

us but to God. In the inner necessity of our own natures God speaks to us, as of old.¹

Response (by Congregation):

We stand here, O Lord of life,
Heirs of all the ages of thy creative effort,
Fruit of all the conflict, the hard-won progress, the sacrifice, the
agony of the past;
We stand erect—for one brief moment—on the crest of thy
history;
Unto us, O Father, without whom the past has no meaning,
Unto us, without whom the future has no being,
Unto us, women of thy world today,
Reveal thyself.
And make us worthy of the life entrusted to us.

LITANY:

Leader: To Thee, O God, Spirit of Truth and Life, we pray. For the
chance to share our hopes, our aspirations and our failures, and
for the joyous friendliness of these days together,

Response (by Congregation): We give Thee thanks.

Leader: For the sunny days and starlit nights, for the charm and
beauty of land and sea,

Response: We give Thee thanks.

Leader: For the mysterious gift of life that is ours to use,

Response: We give Thee thanks.

Leader: For commonsense to use life well, for poise that we may live
with less nervous haste,

Response: We pray Thee.

Leader: For an appreciation of people who may not be like ourselves,

Response: We pray Thee.

Leader: For fairness of spirit, that we may be aware of our mistakes,

Response: We pray Thee.

Leader: With a new appreciation of the beauty and vastness of the
universe,

Response: We would go from this place, O God.

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Leader: With a keener sense of our responsibility for making a finer world,

Response: We would go from this place, O God.

Leader: With a greater vision of our own abilities and how we may use them,

Response: We would go from this place, O God.

Leader: With renewed willingness to strive to become our finest selves,

Response: We would go from this place, O God.

All: With thanks in our hearts that we are alive in such an age, and deep hopes that we may live and give to it,
We would go from this place, O God.

CLOSING HYMN: "Hail the Glorious Golden City" (*tune, "Austria"*).

¹ Meditation quoted from Mrs Harrison S. Elliott's Morning Worship Series at the Fifteenth National Convention of the Y W C A 's of the U S A

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